AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An artificial nipple for an experimental animal comprising:

a nipple made of a material and configured to be elastically deformable such that an interior volume of the nipple is changed when the nipple is sucked by the animal, the nipple including a first concave portion having a first larger diameter and a concave tip portion having a smaller diameter forming a reservoir;

a replaceable duct located in the nipple; and

a structure that prevents a liquid from accumulating in the nipple except in a nipple tip and the duct, wherein the structure that prevents the liquid from accumulating includes at least one of a separate elastic member and an elastic member formed integrally with an outer wall of the nipple, and wherein the duct is located entirely within the nipple, the duct including an outlet end located within the nipple to define the nipple tip portion between the outlet end of the duct and the nipple.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The artificial nipple for an experimental animal according to claim 1, wherein a check valve is provided in a joint part with a feeding bottle.

4. (Currently Amended) A feeding bottle for an experimental animal, comprising:

a feeding bottle;

an artificial nipple for an animal separate from and connectable to the feeding bottle including

a nipple made of a material and configured to be elastically deformable such that an interior volume of the nipple is changed when the nipple is sucked by the animal, the nipple including a first concave portion having a first larger diameter and a concave tip portion having a smaller diameter forming a reservoir;

a replaceable duct located in the nipple; and

a structure that prevents a liquid from accumulating in the nipple except in a nipple tip and the duct, wherein the structure that prevents the liquid from accumulating includes at least one of a separate elastic member and an elastic member formed integrally with an outer wall of the nipple, the duct including an outlet end located within the nipple to define the nipple tip portion between the outlet end of the duct and the nipple.

5. (Original) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 4, wherein the tube is marked with calibrations for measurement and/or a movable mark.

6. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 4, comprising a check valve.

7. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 4, comprising a mechanism by which a liquid stops flowing when an experimental animal drinks a predetermined amount or a certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative.

8. (Original) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 7, comprising a mechanism by which the experimental animal is allowed to voluntarily drink the liquid again upon application of a pressure from outside the feeding bottle after the liquid stops flowing when the experimental animal drinks the predetermined amount or the certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative.

9. (Previously presented) A liquid feeding device for an experimental animal, wherein the artificial nipple according to claim 1 is attached to a feeding bottle including therein a replaceable tube, wherein the tube is marked with calibrations for measurement and/or a movable mark.

10. (Currently Amended) A feeding bottle for an experimental animal used in combination with the artificial nipple of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, the feeding bottle comprising therein a replaceable tube.

11. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 10, wherein the tube is marked with calibrations for measurement and/or a movable mark.

12. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 10, comprising a check valve.

13. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 11, comprising a check valve.

14. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 5, comprising a check valve.

15. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 10, comprising a mechanism by which a liquid stops flowing when an experimental animal drinks a predetermined amount or a certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative.

16. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 11, comprising a mechanism by which a liquid stops flowing when an experimental animal drinks a predetermined amount or a certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative.

17. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 12, comprising a mechanism by which a liquid stops flowing when an experimental animal drinks a predetermined amount or a certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative.

18. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 13, comprising a mechanism by which a liquid stops flowing when an experimental animal drinks a predetermined amount or a certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative.

19. (Previously presented) The feeding bottle for an experimental animal according to claim 18, comprising a mechanism by which the experimental animal is allowed to voluntarily drink the liquid again upon application of a pressure from outside the feeding bottle after the liquid stops flowing when the experimental animal drinks the predetermined amount or the certain amount of the liquid and thereby the internal pressure of the feeding bottle becomes negative.

20. (Currently Amended) A liquid feeding device for an experimental animal, wherein the artificial nipple according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 is attached to a feeding bottle that includes therein a replaceable tube, and the tube is marked with calibrations for measurement and/or a movable mark, and the feeding bottle includes a check valve.

21. (New) An artificial nipple for an experimental animal comprising:

a nipple made of a material and configured to be elastically deformable such that an interior volume of the nipple is changed when the nipple is sucked by the animal;

a replaceable duct located in the nipple; and

a structure that prevents a liquid from accumulating in the nipple except in a nipple tip and the duct, wherein the structure that prevents the liquid from accumulating includes at least one of a separate elastic member and an elastic member formed integrally with an outer wall of the nipple, and wherein the duct is located entirely within the nipple, the duct including an outlet end located within the nipple to define the nipple tip portion between the outlet end of the duct and the nipple, and the elastic member includes a first elastic member portion that surrounds the duct and a second elastic member portion that surrounds the duct, and the first elastic member portion is separated from the second elastic member portion by a flange.

22. (New) A feeding bottle for an experimental animal, comprising:

a feeding bottle;

an artificial nipple for an animal separate from and connectable to the feeding bottle including

a nipple made of a material and configured to be elastically deformable such that an interior volume of the nipple is changed when the nipple is sucked by the animal;

a replaceable duct located in the nipple; and

a structure that prevents a liquid from accumulating in the nipple except in a nipple tip and the duct, wherein the structure that prevents the liquid from accumulating includes at least one of a separate elastic member and an elastic member formed integrally with an outer wall of the nipple, the duct including an outlet end located within the nipple to define the nipple tip portion between the outlet end of the duct and the nipple, and the elastic member includes a first elastic member portion that surrounds the duct and a second elastic member portion that surrounds the duct, and the first elastic member portion is separated from the second elastic

member portion by a flange.